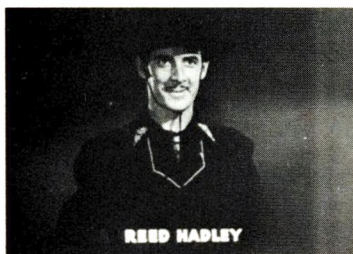


REPUBLIC PICTURES
PRESENTS
**"ZORRO'S
FIGHTING
LEGION"**

CLASSIFIED AND INDEXED BY THE NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW
RECEIVED FOR REVIEW BY THE NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW
RECEIVED FOR REVIEW BY THE NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW
RECEIVED FOR REVIEW BY THE NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW



REED HADLEY



SHEILA DARCY



WILLIAM CORSON



LEANDER DE CORDOVA EDMUND COBB



JOHN MERTON C. MONTAGUE SHAW



BUDD BUSTER
CARLETON YOUNG
GUY D'ENNERY
PAUL MARIAN
JOE MOLINA
JIM PIERCE
HELEN MITCHELL
CURLEY DRESDEN
CHARLES KING
AL TAYLOR

CHAPTER ONE
**THE
GOLDEN
GOD**

WE RIDE...

With the wind
Over hill, over dale,
With a spirit
That cannot fail,
Men of Zorro
Are we... we ride!



ZORRO'S FIGHTING LEGION



A Republic Serial
in 12 Chapters

CLIFFHANGER
ENDING
and ESCAPE
PICTORIAL

CAST

FEATURING

Zorro.....Reed Hadley
 Don Diego Vega }
 Volita.....Sheila Darcy
 Ramon.....William Corson
 Felipe.....Leander de Cordova
 Gonzales.....Edmund Cobb
 Commandante Manuel.....John Merton
 Pablo.....C. Montague Shaw

WITH

Juan.....Budd Buster
 Benito Juarez.....Carleton Young
 Don Francisco.....Guy D'Ennery
 Kala.....Paul Marion
 Tarmac.....Joe Molina
 Moreno.....Jim Pierce
 Donna Maria.....Helen Mitchel
 Tomas.....Curley Dresden
 Valdez.....Charles King
 Rico.....Al Taylor

AND

Carlos.....Theodore Lorch
 Riccardo.....Norman Lane
 Rodriguez.....Ralph Faulkner
 Cantina Owner.....Jason Robards
 Pedro.....Eddie Cherkose
 Sebastian.....Ernest Sarracino
 Martinez.....Wylie Grant
 Gold Shipment Soldier.....Yakima Canutt
 Soldier 1.....Reed Howes
 Soldier 2.....Barry Hays
 Miguel Torres.....Gordon Clark
 Garcia.....George Plues
 Salvador.....Alan Gregg
 Hernandez.....Bob Wilbur
 Bridge Native.....Joe Delacruz
 Lt. Antonio Gomez.....Jack Carrington
 Pepito.....Charles Murphy
 Christobal, Martin.....Ken Terrell
 Dungeon Heavy 1.....Bud Geary
 Dungeon Heavy 2.....Hal Taliaferro
 Stagecoach Driver.....Bill Yrigoyen
 Jose.....James Fawcett
 Jailer.....John Wallace
 Cave Heavy 1.....Jack O'Shea
 Presidio Guard.....Max Marx
 Mabesa.....Martin Faust
 Soldier 3.....Joe McGuinn
 Fernando.....Jack Moore
 Orlando.....Carl Sepulveda
 Jaimo.....Burt Dillard
 Renaldo.....Buel Bryant
 Throne Guard 1.....Jerry Frank
 Don del Oro's Voice.....Billy Bletcher
 Others: Ted Mapes, Augie Gomez

FILE NOTES

Republic Serial No. 16—in 12 chapters.
 Production No. 898

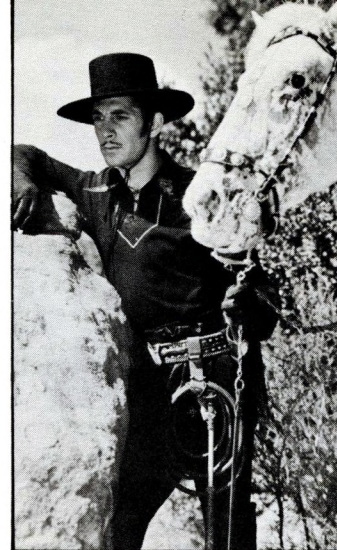
Copyright MCMXXXIX by Republic Pictures Corporation
 with all rights reserved

Classified and passed by the National Board of Review

Filming started.....September 15, 1939
 Filming ended.....October 14, 1939
 Total days to film.....30
 National Release Date..December 16, 1939
 16mm footage [live].....7,595 feet
 Total running time.....211:01
 Chapter editing completed dates..[1939-40]
 1 [11- 9], 2 [11-20], 3 [11-27], 4 [12- 5],
 5 [12-11], 6 [12-18], 7 [12-26], 8 [12-28],
 9 [1- 4], 10 [1-11], 11 [1-17], 12 [1-22].
 MPPDA Approved Certificates.....5691-95,
 5697-99, 5767-70.

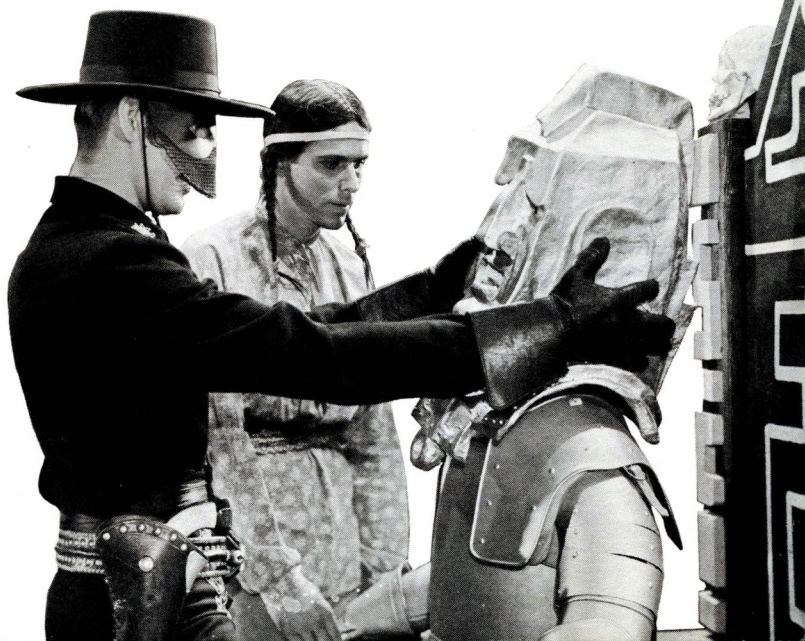
Music credited to.....William Lava
 Compositions used, by: Cy Feuer [9],
 William Lava [8], Paul Sawtell [2], David
 Tamkin [2], Karl Hajos [2], Joe Nuss-
 baum [2], Raoul Kraushaar [1], Lava-
 Eddie Cherkose [1].

ZORRO'S FIGHTING LEGION



The Zorro character served Republic Pictures well, during its serial tenure, in four chapterplays [ZORRO RIDES AGAIN, ZORRO'S FIGHTING LEGION, SON OF ZORRO, GHOST OF ZORRO] and, in name at least, in another [ZORRO'S BLACK WHIP], plus two loosely-camouflaged imitations [DON DARE-DEVIL RIDES AGAIN, MAN WITH THE STEEL WHIP]. However, only ZORRO'S FIGHTING LEGION drew directly on Johnston McCulley's inception of Don Diego Vega, whose foppish mien served to belie his other identity as an avenging old West Robin Hood first chronicled in a 1919 book THE CURSE OF CAP-ISTRANO, as the masked characters in the others were either descendants or pseudo-Zorros. The casting of Reed Hadley in the title role showed exceptional acumen, for his dashing appearance was equally convincing whether sniffing snuff as the otiose Diego or crossing swords as the swashbuckling Zorro. Hadley was supported by a large roster of fine character actors including, in a small part as the cantina owner, Jason Robards, father of the contemporary stage and motion picture luminary.

Once again the tautological red herring theme was trundled out to weave a consistent suspense fabric through the 12 episodes, although the writers embellished this with a host of original material. The story, set during the Republic of Mexico's recon-struction period in 1824 following the lengthy war for inde-pendence from Spain, revolves around the auriferous San Mendolito mine, which can easily supply a flow of gold to es-tablish foreign credit for the fledgling government under Benito Juarez. Although his goals are openly supported by San Mendo-



lito's governing body, one of its members, abetted by three others, clandestinely seeks to ruin the young nation and become emperor himself. To achieve this aim he resurrects the spectre of Don del Oro, the Yaqui Indian God of Gold, and preys on the natives' superstitions to rail against the white men and steal the gold shipments bound for Mexico City. A band of white renegades is also employed to ensure success for the venture, but Don del Oro's forces soon have to reckon with the Fighting Legion, a delegation of hand-picked patriots chosen by another councilor, Don Francisco. When Francisco is murdered in an attempt to undermine the Legion, his nephew, Don Diego Vega, assumes leadership as Zorro. A lavishly-mounted production in the truest sense of Republic's "Golden Era", ZORRO'S FIGHTING LEGION was augmented with the superlative stunt work of Yakima Canutt and Ted Mapes, Howard Lydecker's spectacular special effects and the dynamic direction of William Witney and John English. Anyone foolhardy enough to again be led down a primrose path trying to guess the disguised villain's identity prior to the final reel was doomed to disappointment. While C. Montague Shaw is unveiled at the denouement in Chapter 12 as Don del Oro, the Golden God's voice for the preceding film footage was supplied by Billy Bletcher.

Production Notes . . . assistant directors to William Witney and John English were Louis Germonprez, William Strobach and B. Brill . . . the rousing song sung by the Legionnaires behind the main title and end title credits was entitled WE RIDE. William Lava, who provided eight additional background pieces, composed the music, with lyrics written by Eddie Cherkose, who also appeared as a guitar-strumming heavy in the serial. Among Cy Feuer's nine original contributions were a leitmotif [DON DEL ORO] and a recurring chase theme [ZORRO'S PURSUIT]. Rounding out the score with two compositions apiece were Karl Hajos, Paul Sawtell, David Tamkin and Joe Nussbaum, plus a cantina tune in Chapter One penned by Raoul Kraushaar . . . an unresolved standardization in spelling the Yaqui legend's name presented several disparities in the forward titles. Don del Oro—literally translated from Spanish as "Man of Gold"—usually appeared with each word capitalized and, in some instances, hyphenated. The best clue, however, is a Chapter One note theoretically written by the Golden God and signed without hyphens and with the conjunction entirely in lower case . . . actor Paul Marion's last name was misspelled as "Marian" in the list of supporting players, but was correctly orthographized a year later [1940] in MYSTERIOUS DOCTOR SATAN, the only other Republic serial in which he received screen credit, despite several other appearances . . . Billy Bletcher, who dubbed the voice of Don del Oro, had several years previously supplied articulation for the mysterious Ranger prospect in Republic's 1938 serial, THE LONE RANGER . . . audiences were treated to a truly death-defying spectacle in Chapter Seven when stuntman Yakima Canutt, doubling for Reed Hadley, somersaulted between a team of galloping horses, lay prone on the road until the stagecoach passed over him, then grabbed hold of the coach's tailgate and pulled himself aboard. Canutt perfected this stunt, which he performed numerous times in other films, and it is alleged that he alone was capable of executing this extremely dangerous feat . . . such were the producers' hopes of short memories that the San Nicholas Mission, completely destroyed at the climax of Chapter Two, magically reappeared intact for a final strategy session meeting place for Zorro and his Legion in Chapter 11.



San Mendolito council members Don Francisco, Ramon, Gonzales, Commandante Manuel, Pablo, Carlos and Riccardo listen attentively as their governor, Felipe, introduces Mexican patriot Benito Juarez, who makes a plea for a continuing flow of gold from the rich local mine to replenish their Republic's depleted coffers following the lengthy struggle for independence. Outside, Francisco tells Juarez he has formed a loyal band of men to combat the Yaqui Indian threat incited by their God of Gold, Don del Oro. Meanwhile, Felipe, Gonzales, Manuel and Pablo clandestinely drink a success toast to the idol and soon another wagon train of gold is attacked by the natives. At the cantina, Rodriguez, rebuffed when he tries to join Francisco's secret army, instigates a duel and, with the cantina owner looking on aghast, brutally stabs Francisco. But Zorro intervenes and carves a bloody "Z" on Rodriguez' forehead before the latter is shot by the dying Francisco. Zorro reveals he is nephew Don Diego Vega to Francisco, who succumbs after telling him to take his place on the council and watch its members. As Pedro strolls through town strumming his guitar in a secret summons for Don del Oro's followers to congregate at the secret cavern headquarters, Sebastian advises his poker partners to remain unhurried and stop acquiescing to the legendary figure. The heretic is instantly dragged to a confrontation with the living Golden God, who mercilessly orders him sacrificed in a fiery lava pit. Then Don del Oro, explaining to his henchmen he will use the Yaquis' unwitting allegiance to drive the fledgling Mexican republic bankrupt upon which he will then found an empire and become its emperor, approves Martinez' infiltration of Francisco's organization. Diego and his servant, Juan, having supposedly just arrived from California, are greeted at Francisco's hacienda by Donna Maria and Ramon's sister, Volita. The four subversive councilors, joyously noting the foppish Diego would be an untroublesome addition to their ranks, immediately insist that he fill the vacant chair left by his uncle. That midnight, Diego dons the Zorro garb and appears at a deserted Mission where Ramon has arranged a meeting with the Fighting Legion, and a plan is made for safeguarding another gold shipment. Martinez relays this news and, realizing the imminent failure of the Indian attack, Valdez, Rico and Tomas leave to prepare a dynamite trap for the wagons in a narrow pass while Martinez rides to inform Tarmac, the Indian leader. A soldier falls, hit by a golden arrow, signaling the Indian raid against the wagon train, which is successfully repulsed by the Legion. Zorro alone follows the retreating Yaquis to their rendezvous point, where he overhears the destruction plot, but his position is exposed by two Yaqui guards. Killing the traitorous Martinez with a sword thrust in the ensuing fray, Zorro eludes the natives and tries to warn the wagon train, which has been blocked at the pass by a large tree stump. He duels with Valdez, Rico and Tomas while a powder cache fuse begins to flare, then he slides away down a hill and endeavors to alert the soldiers when the mountain side blows up, spewing rocks downward toward Zorro and the soldiers.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



The soldiers clear the pass and ride through as Zorro lashes his whip about a tree limb and swings away from the landslide. Ramon and the Legionnaires continue their discreet surveillance of the wagons while Zorro, as Diego, rides ahead with Juan to Mexico City and issues a report to Juarez. Fearing the dispatch of more troops would antagonize the Yaquis into a general uprising, Juarez expresses appreciation for the Legion's work, but warns Diego they have no legal standing should they run afoul of the San Mendolito authorities. At a council board of inquiry, Manuel claims the gold train was attacked by Zorro's men and only because they became embroiled fighting the Indians was the cavalry able to escape with their precious cargo. The council votes to post a 1000-peso reward for the capture of Zorro and his confederates and, later, Soldiers 1 and 2 on mounted patrol seize Miguel Torres, whom they spot hiding a bundled Legionnaire costume. Learning Miguel is to be shot at daybreak, Diego summons his followers by igniting a hillside brush pile formed in the shape of a "Z", but it is also observed by Moreno and Tomas, who trail the Legion to the San Nicholas Mission, then leave to inform Don del Oro of their find. The next morning, Zorro watches from a rooftop as Miguel is placed before the execution squad. Manuel is about to carry out the sentence when a pair of hornet's nests are dropped into the courtyard by two Legionnaires and Miguel is freed in the confusion to rejoin his compatriots. Meanwhile, Rico and the Yaquis jam shut the rear Mission door with a thick log while Moreno, Tomas, Valdez and Tarmac mine the basement with powder kegs fused with a candle cut to burn for two hours. Responding to a "Z" fire signal, Ramon rides ahead to join the other members in the Mission while Zorro, pausing to investigate a Yaqui medicine pouch lying on the ground, overhears the scheme to destroy the Legion. Finding the back door barred, Ramon is wounded when the opposition opens fire from ambush on the front entrance, and falls unconscious as the Legionnaires storm the rear exit. Zorro releases his men by removing the door-bracing log with his whip but, trying to aid his injured friend, is pinned inside by gunfire as the powder lets go, blowing the Mission to smithereens.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

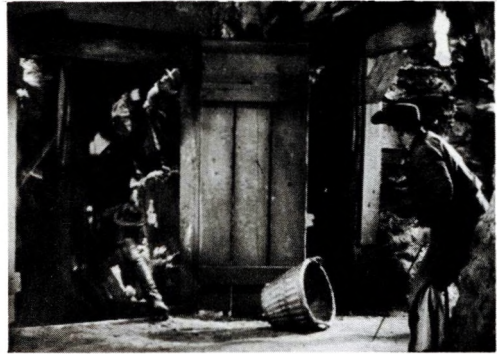


THE ESCAPE

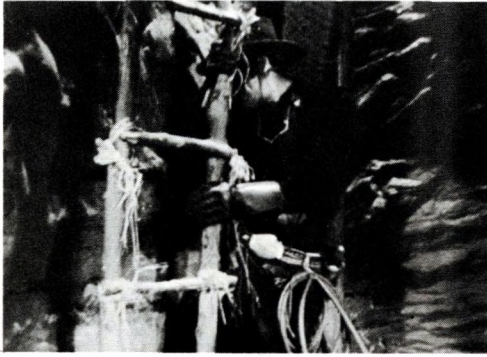


With Ramon slung over his shoulder, Zorro wraps his whip around a rafter and crashes to safety through a stained glass window. He quickly disbands the Legion to lull their attackers into thinking they are not being followed, then puts Juan on their trail. Juan tracks them to the San Mendolito mine and, after observing a secret room in one of the passages, sends his horse bearing a note back to the hacienda. When Garcia informs Gonzales, the mine manager, that one of Zorro's men appropriated his hat, shirt and number tag, the miners are lined up for inspection to weed out the spy in their midst. Purportedly paying a friendly visit to the diggings, Diego and Ramon arrive as Juan, on the verge of being discovered, breaks rank and dashes into a tunnel. In a seemingly inept attempt to give chase, Diego manages to prod a donkey-drawn cart in front of the entrance, giving his friend time to escape. Finally entering the passage, Diego, Ramon and Gonzales come face-to-face with Rico, Moreno, Salvador and Tarmac. Diego pretends to surrender, but pushes hard on a plank lying across a saw horse, which strikes Salvador in the face as the others escape. Salvador is hauled off to a council session where the members watch interestedly as Diego plies the prisoner with gold and the promise of safe passage to Europe for information pertaining to Don del Oro. Salvador is about to give in when a golden arrow whizzes through an open window and hits him in the back. Telling his brigands he has been able to forestall an investigation until the next day, Don del Oro sends them to the mine to cripple the operation, not realizing Zorro's intentions of searching the premises. Seeing the Yaquis rounding up the mining equipment, Zorro sends Ramon for the Legion while he slides down the unattended elevator rope and subsequently engages Moreno and Valdez in a sword fight. When the bell cord is jiggled during the battle, the windlass-operated car is hoisted as Moreno hurls a torch, missing Zorro but falling into the elevator pit where it ignites a dynamite fuse. A thrown basket knocks Zorro into the shaft where he plucks the fuse from the explosives and begins to climb a ladder. At the sight of the approaching Legion, the windlass is abandoned and the elevator descends with a rush toward Zorro.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

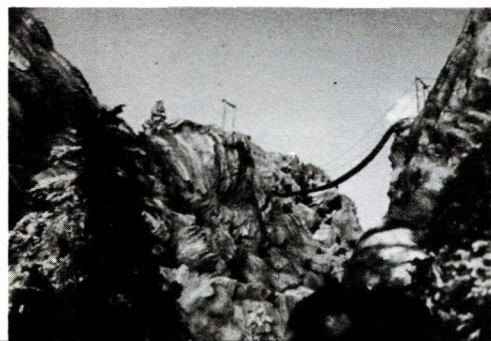


THE ESCAPE



Swinging behind the shaft ladder until the elevator drops past, Zorro scrambles to the surface, mounts El Rey and assists the Legion in driving off the renegades. An unusually-ornamented small pistol, whipped from the hand of a heavy in the battle, is turned over to Juan for tracing through the local gunsmiths. Pablo, Manuel and Gonzales receive the disturbing news from Felipe that Juarez has raised 1000 more troops plus the necessary arms and ammunition, which will pass through San Mendolito the next day on a wagon train. They mull this potential threat to Don del Oro's plan to become Emperor of Mexico when Pedro reports that the poorly-armed Yaquis were routed by Zorro's Legion before they could completely sabotage the mine. Gonzales' prophecy that Don del Oro will find Juarez' munitions shipment invaluable is borne out when the Golden God advises his cheering throng that they will soon possess the white man's weapons. He also allays Moreno's fears of a military escort supposed to meet the train by making special arrangements for the next council meeting. At the session, Manuel again decries Zorro's Legion, claiming them responsible for the mine damage. With Gonzales and Pablo demanding immediate justice, Felipe authorizes Manuel to turn out his troops in search of the elusive masked man. When Manuel reminds his superior he is to lead an escort for the armament convoy, Felipe produces a message claiming it has been delayed for several days, thus freeing the troops for their new assignment. Juan, able to learn only that the gun in question was manufactured at the Hernandez Armory, waits outside while Zorro searches the facility. Hiding behind a stack of boxes, Zorro hears Tomas, Hernandez and a heavy discuss the impending attack on the wagons before he is discovered. Tomas leaves, but Zorro effects a sword fight. Dominating his opponents, Zorro tells Juan to assemble the Legion, then takes after Tomas on horseback. But Moreno spots the chase and orders Tarmac and the Yaquis to head off their nemesis at the suspension bridge. Running across the span on foot, Zorro shoots a native who, lying wounded, cuts the first cable. Zorro tries desperately to regain his balance on the swaying bridge but the other rope is summarily severed and he plummets into the abyss.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

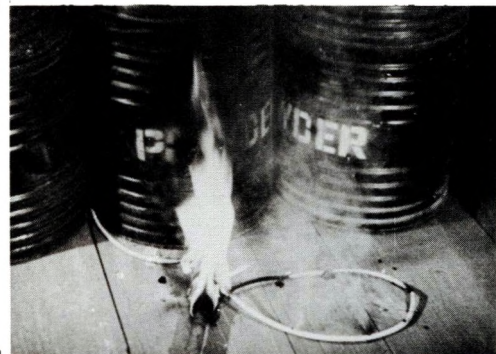


THE ESCAPE



Zorro clings to the side railing and gains a foothold on a rock ledge when the bridge slams against the opposite canyon wall. He climbs to the brink, then fires a "Z" signal while Moreno, Valdez, Rico and Tomas hail the munitions train with a set of forged orders. When Lieutenant Antonio Gomez refuses to release the arms shipment, he and his men are ruthlessly gunned down and the desperadoes commandeer the wagons. Zorro and the Legion, finding the murdered soldiers, follow the wheel tracks but Moreno's bandits, after unloading their plunder, turn the wagons loose. The Legionnaires rein in the run-aways, and when it becomes apparent the missing guns and ammunition will be used to arm the Yaquis, Zorro devises a plan for the next council meeting to force Don del Oro's hand. Manuel barely delivers his report of finding the dead soldiers when a rock smashes through a council chamber window, with the attached note from Zorro claiming he knows where the stolen goods are hidden and that they will be delivered to San Mendolito within a day. Diego's suggestion that this would be an opportune chance to capture their quarry is immediately accepted and Manuel leaves to assemble his militia. As Don del Oro exhorts the Indians to retrieve the armaments, Zorro disperses marked carrier pigeons to a trio of Legionnaires, instructing them to assume lookout positions on three key routes. When the Barajos Pass bird returns to its cote, Ramon rides off with the Legion and decoys the protective convoy away while Zorro and two other members intercept the three wagons by leaping from an overhanging rock shelf as they roll past. Zorro knocks the driver off one wagon and pulls in the team just as a wheel comes loose. Sighting the approaching Yaquis, he whistles for El Rey and hurriedly joins his men behind the shelter of the other two wagons. Moreno supervises as the crippled powder wagon is hastily repaired, its contents kindled with a torch and, amidst a fierce gun battle, sent rolling down a slope, toward the Legion's barricade. Zorro tells his men to continue their barrage as he rides out and overtakes the runaway juggernaut. He tries to work the hand brake but the explosives-laden dray rumbles toward the Legion, erupting in a shattering blast.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



Zorro maneuvers the wagon tongue sufficiently to steer it away from his comrades, then jumps off before it explodes. He and two Legionnaires keep up a constant volley from behind the wagons while Ramon and Juan each take half of the Legion and circle around the opposition to thwart the anticipated charge. Believing reinforcements have arrived, Moreno quickly orders his men and the Yaquis to retreat. A group of Legionnaires rides at full gallop through the council building courtyard, firing wildly in the air to decoy the guards away in false pursuit while Zorro delivers the munitions wagons. A knife sticks in the door post as the councilors scurry outside and Felipe reads the attached note which states that "Zorro always fulfills his promise". Manuel and Felipe visit Francisco's hacienda to inquire about Diego and Ramon's absence at the last council session, and are told by Volita that they have been away since morning inspecting cattle. On the way back to San Mendolito, Manuel and Felipe chance upon Ramon talking with Zorro and they excitedly relate their amazing news to Gonzales and Pablo. Sent by Don del Oro to abduct Ramon, Tomas hides in the carriage boot and Pepito furtively takes over the driver's seat as Volita and her brother leave the chapel following afternoon services. When Ramon reprimands "Juan" for taking the wrong road, Tomas shows himself and pulls a gun while Diego, having concluded a talk with the padre at the chapel, finds Juan bound and gagged in a nearby alley. They change to their costumes and soon discover Volita's handkerchief lying on a trail. Meantime, Ramon and his sister are hustled inside an abandoned dungeon as Pepito, noticing several of the girl's smaller apparel items missing, decides to backtrack along the road. He is soon captured by Zorro, however, and, threatened with the flashing whip, divulges the dungeon's location. In a move to force Ramon into revealing Zorro's identity, Rico advances toward the chained Volita with a hot branding iron when a heavy's cry sends him, Tomas and Cisco running to an outer alcove. The four duel furiously with Zorro until he unknowingly shuts himself in a torture chamber. Tomas bolts the door and the bandits turn a large wheel which moves one of the walls in a crushing movement toward Zorro.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

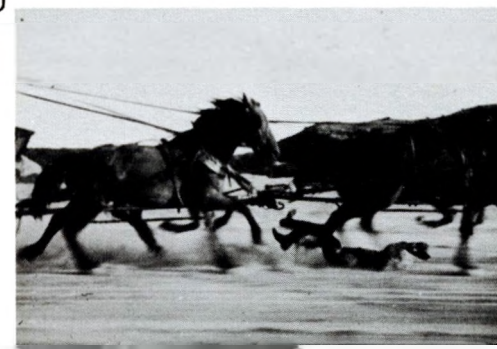
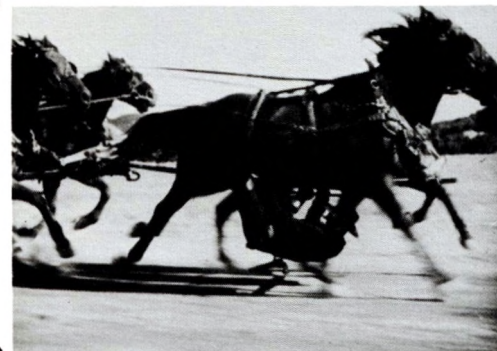


THE ESCAPE



Loosening with his knife a section of flagstone flooring, Zorro upends the slab to stop progress of the moving wall as the Legion arrives and begins to batter down the dungeon door. Christobal opens a panel into the chamber with murderous intent, but Zorro cracks his whip around the bandit's wrist, pulling him inside, then knocks him out. Aiding his friends in another room, Zorro slugs Dungeon Heavy 1 after 2 falls on a drawn knife which pierces his chest. Ramon and Volita are left in the Legionnaire's care while Zorro races back to the hacienda and awaits their return as Diego. He questions Ramon as to who could possibly have seen the talk with Zorro when Volita volunteers it could have been Manuel and Felipe since they had earlier paid a visit to the ranch. Although both officials are theoretically above reproach, Diego professes suspicions about Manuel as a likely candidate to be either Don del Oro or one of his minions. Intending to force a showdown, Diego calls on the Commandante with a fabricated story that he has bribed one of Don del Oro's men to betray his leader's true identity. The unnamed source is to leave a note at a site known only to Diego but he timidly admits a reluctance to make the journey alone. Manuel readily agrees to accompany him and Diego gratefully promises to return shortly, thus allowing the Commandante time for arranging any ulterior plans. As expected, when Diego and Manuel reach their destination Moreno, Tomas and Rico confiscate the sealed letter and ride away, then Diego holds Manuel at gunpoint for having recognized Moreno's voice when Manuel's back was turned. Moreno, pausing to read the contents of the envelope and finding only a blank piece of paper, urges his men back to town as Pedro notes Diego marching Manuel into the council chambers. Manuel catches the councilors off guard, grabs Pablo's gun and leaps from the balcony onto a stagecoach which barrels out of town as Moreno, Rico and Tomas pin the members inside with a flurry of gunfire. Diego braves the fusillade and dashes behind the building where Juan awaits with the costume and El Rey. Zorro overtakes the stage, transfers to the lead horses and wounds the driver. But Manuel fires from inside the coach and Zorro somersaults under the team and slides along the ground.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

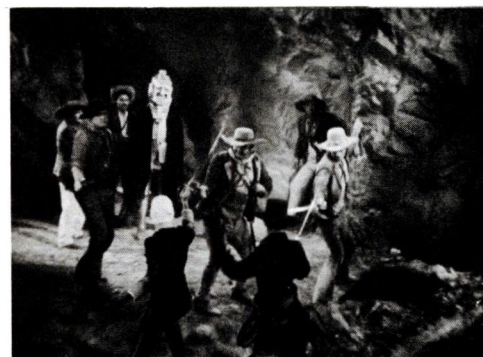


THE ESCAPE



Zorro purposely falls beneath the stage and, after it passes over him, grabs the tailgate and hauls himself back aboard, then kicks the driver to the wayside. Zorro jumps on the team, reining them to a stop, but the coach breaks away and rolls over an embankment. Zorro withdraws the injured Manuel from the overturned stage as Ramon rides up and Manuel is taken to Jose's cabin for safekeeping. Jose guards the prisoner while Ramon, after bandaging his head and dressing in the Commandante's uniform, is taken to the San Mendolito jail by Diego. Felipe adjourns the council session when Diego reports "Manuel" has suffered a concussion and cannot be made to talk for the moment, and soon Tomas and Rico are issued a directive by Pedro at the cantina. They pass through the barricade gates with an ox cart on the pretense of delivering straw for the horses but, instead, sling the bales into the corridor outside Ramon's cell, then ignite them with a torch. Ramon frantically calls for the jailer who coldly informs him that Don del Oro has willed his death. Diego and Juan arrive, however, and, unable to enter the burning prison, hook a rope from the oxen to the outside bars, tearing out a section of wall which allows Ramon to flee. Quickly assuming their disguises, Zorro and Juan follow Ramon's progress and note his eventual capture by Rico and Tomas, who take the man they believe to be Manuel to Don del Oro's cave. Meanwhile, when Jose loosens Manuel's chafing bonds, the Commandante clubs him with a water pitcher and makes tracks for the cave. Zorro sends Juan for the Legion, overcomes Valdez who is guarding the entrance and begins to enter, but ducks aside as Manuel approaches. Now realizing their captive is an intruder, Don del Oro orders Ramon unbandaged as Zorro intervenes. He and Ramon duel with Moreno, Rico and Tomas while Manuel, aware of the intent to execute him as an informer, escapes in the confusion. At Don del Oro's command, Cave Heavies 1, 2 and 3 begin breaking down a makeshift stone dike while the others force Zorro and Ramon into a blind corridor. The Golden God and his men watch triumphantly as the dike ruptures and Zorro and Ramon, unable to find an escape route, shield their faces as the rushing torrent of water roars down the tunnel, engulfing them.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



An air pocket formed in the chamber permits Zorro and Ramon to tread water as Valdez regains consciousness and hurries into the tunnel, alerting Don del Oro and his men to the approaching Legion. They slip through a hidden door while Zorro and Ramon, after swimming to freedom, join their fellow Legionnaires and capture Manuel. Yielding in the face of Zorro's threat to leave him alone in the badlands to face Don del Oro's vengeful wrath, the Commandante is about to name the hooded insurgent when a golden arrow from Tarmac's bow silences Manuel forever. Concurring it will be to their advantage to convince the other members that Manuel was Don del Oro, Felipe, Pablo and Gonzales convene a council session for the purpose of incriminating the Commandante by judging his past record of oft-repeated failures committed in the line of duty.

REVIEW

1. In command of a regiment guarding a gold shipment which is attacked by Yaquis, Manuel withdraws, leaving his men to be massacred by the Indians. 2. Manuel also deserts the next gold train, but Zorro's intervention prevents the wagon caravan from being trapped and buried in a dynamited gorge. 3. Diego and Ramon, visiting Gonzales' gold mine, are confronted by Rico, Moreno, Tarmac and Salvador, but after an altercation capture Salvador.

Ramon recounts the third review attempting to show the purely circumstantial evidence against Manuel could just as easily be applied to Gonzales, who may willingly have sheltered Don del Oro's men at the mine. Diego expands on this line of insinuation after Soldier 2 brings word of Manuel's death, but Pablo abruptly presses for an answer to Gonzales' accusation that Diego could well be Zorro since the two men have never been seen together. Pretending to violate a confidence, Diego replies he has talked with Zorro several times, most recently that very morning. Questioned further, he begins to relate a supposed death statement made by Manuel when Tarmac, summoned to the chamber door by Pedro, draws his bow in careful aim toward Diego, then unleashes another deadly golden arrow.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

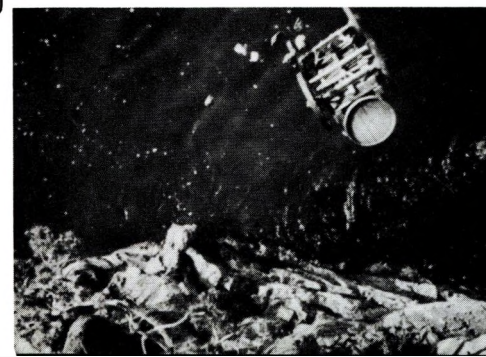


THE ESCAPE



The arrow strikes a wall mirror reflecting Diego's image and Tarmac makes off across the presidio grounds, pursued by Diego and Ramon. A guard directs them to the street which they find vacant save for a water wagon and Garcia, who claims he has seen no one. Finding this implausible, Diego raps on the water tank and demands Garcia open it when Gonzales interrupts, vouches for his man's honesty and sends him on to the mine with the cargo after turning the spigot to show there is water inside. Unconvinced because of the hollow sound and Gonzales' fast alibi, Diego and Ramon ride to the mine where Mabesa asserts Garcia only makes water deliveries in the morning, then they double-check the trail for a possible turning-off point. Rico and Martin, sent by Mabesa, appear from ambush and a fight starts when Diego throws his snuff box in Rico's face. Martin pummels Ramon but is accidentally killed as Diego ducks a knife hurled by Rico, who then makes a rapid getaway. At the ceremonial cave, Valdez, Tomas and Garcia unload powder kegs from the water wagon while Don del Oro hears Rico report the failure to take Diego and Ramon prisoner. Ignoring Moreno's suggestion to wait several days before moving the rest of the firearms, Don del Oro instructs him to finish the job immediately and, the next morning, Diego and Ramon spot the unguarded water wagon and subsequently uncover a false compartment filled with rifles. While Ramon assembles the Legion at Pocatel Road, Zorro moves into sword action against Tomas, Rico and Valdez inside the armory. Once outside, Zorro stuns Kala but is himself brought down when Garcia strikes him from behind with a whip butt. The heavies load Zorro in the wagon, then cover their actions when Soldiers 2 and 3 appear by turning the unconscious Kala over to them, claiming they had caught him trying to steal guns. Riding toward the cave, the raiders find themselves besieged by the Legion and shoot it out as Garcia tries to escape with the wagon, but he is picked off in the chase and pitches to the road. Zorro stirs to consciousness inside the water tank as the racing team of horses breaks away from the wagon, which rumbles headlong off a cliff into a lake below with the masked avenger still trapped inside.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

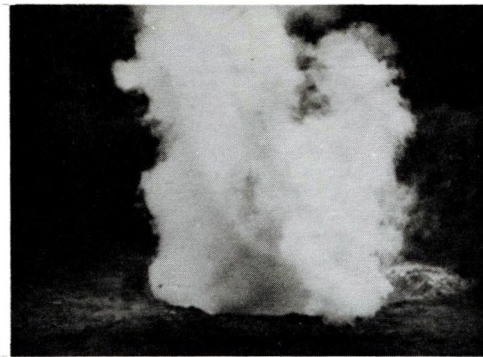


THE ESCAPE



Zorro bashes an escape hole in the wooden tank with the butt of a musket and swims to shore. Handed a note by Volita requesting their presence at Kala's trial, Diego and Ramon mull over that the young Indian is a hereditary leader of the Yaquis and theorize because he is so popular with the tribe Don del Oro will use his influence on the councilors and plead for a light or suspended sentence. Instead, Felipe, Pablo and Gonzales press for the death penalty to set an example for any other Indian who might be tempted to infringe on the white man's laws. Now aware this turnabout in tactics will actually be more beneficial to Don del Oro since Kala's execution would incite the furious natives to overrun San Mendolito, Zorro has his men draw lots for the dangerous mission to rescue the Indian prince. The next day, as Kala is led to the gallows, two driverless powder wagons alive with sputtering fuses stampede into the courtyard. Diego and Ramon help to agitate the rampant confusion, then run outside the compound and switch to their costumes while Legionnaires Fernando, Jaimo, Orlando and Renaldo storm the scaffold, subdue the hangman and help Kala scale the wall. Before the soldiers restore order and discover the explosives kegs are empty, Zorro and Kala retreat to the country and join incised wrists in a blood-brother ritual. At first reluctant to accept Zorro's imputation that Don del Oro's body has been possessed by a white imposter, Kala finally consents to take him to his God and they enter the ceremonial cave where Zorro pulls off the idol's helmet, revealing an empty suit of armor. Throne Guards 1 and 2 interfere, however, and Zorro is forced to spear 2 with his sword while 1 is sent reeling into the boiling lava pit. Convinced he and his people have been obsequiously responding to a false God, Kala summons Tarmac and the Yaquis to witness the revelation but, to Zorro's consternation, Don del Oro rises from his throne and orders death to the unbeliever. Zorro fires at him, but the bullet caroms harmlessly off the armored breastplate, offering further credence to the Yaquis' ill-founded belief their God is indestructible. They encircle Zorro, spears at the ready, prodding him backwards toward the fire pit until he disappears from sight in a smoldering shroud.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



Avoiding the spear thrusts, Zorro jumps over the fire pit and hurls a powder keg into it. The concussion from the resultant blast stuns the Yaquis and allows Zorro and Kala to conceal themselves near the throne where they hear Don del Oro instruct Moreno, Rico, Tomas and Tarmac to arm the natives for an assault on San Mendolito while he, as a councilor, sees that the militia is sent on a false mission. With this verbal proof, Zorro implores Kala to hold his people in abeyance while he leaves to see that Don del Oro does not return to lead the attack as promised. After first unmasking himself to Volita at the hacienda and requesting her to summon the Legion from a list of names in his bedroom, Zorro enters the council chamber and stops an adjournment. He is about to learn Don del Oro's identity when Pedro, Rico, Tomas and a heavy burst through the door. Pedro and Rico are killed and Tomas and the heavy subdued in the fierce conflict, then Zorro tells Ramon to have the Legion protect the town. Felipe, Pablo and Gonzales, however, have escaped during the ruckus and arrive at the ceremonial cave where one of them dresses in the Don del Oro regalia, then shoots the other two to protect his identity now that victory is at hand. Although Kala insists their God will not return, Tarmac and the Yaquis adamantly watch an hourglass for the appointed time of his reappearance and, as the sand runs out, the throne doors open to reveal Don del Oro. He riles the chanting natives into a frenzy and raises a golden arrow as a death omen for Kala but Zorro's whip lashes it from his hand. The arrow wedges between two rocks and Tarmac is killed when he falls on it after being struck by Zorro. Kala levels a musket at the natives while Zorro, struggling on the floor with Don del Oro, wrests the golden helmet from his opponent. Pablo rises in defeat to face the incensed Yaquis, whose justice is swift as they force him over the fire pit rim to a flaming death. The natives cheer Kala as he urges them to return to their homes and live in peace with their white friends. In his Zorro costume, Diego affixes the seal to a peace treaty proclaiming Ramon the new governor and Kala chief of the Yaquis, then bids good-bye and mounts up for a final ride with the Legion before returning to California.

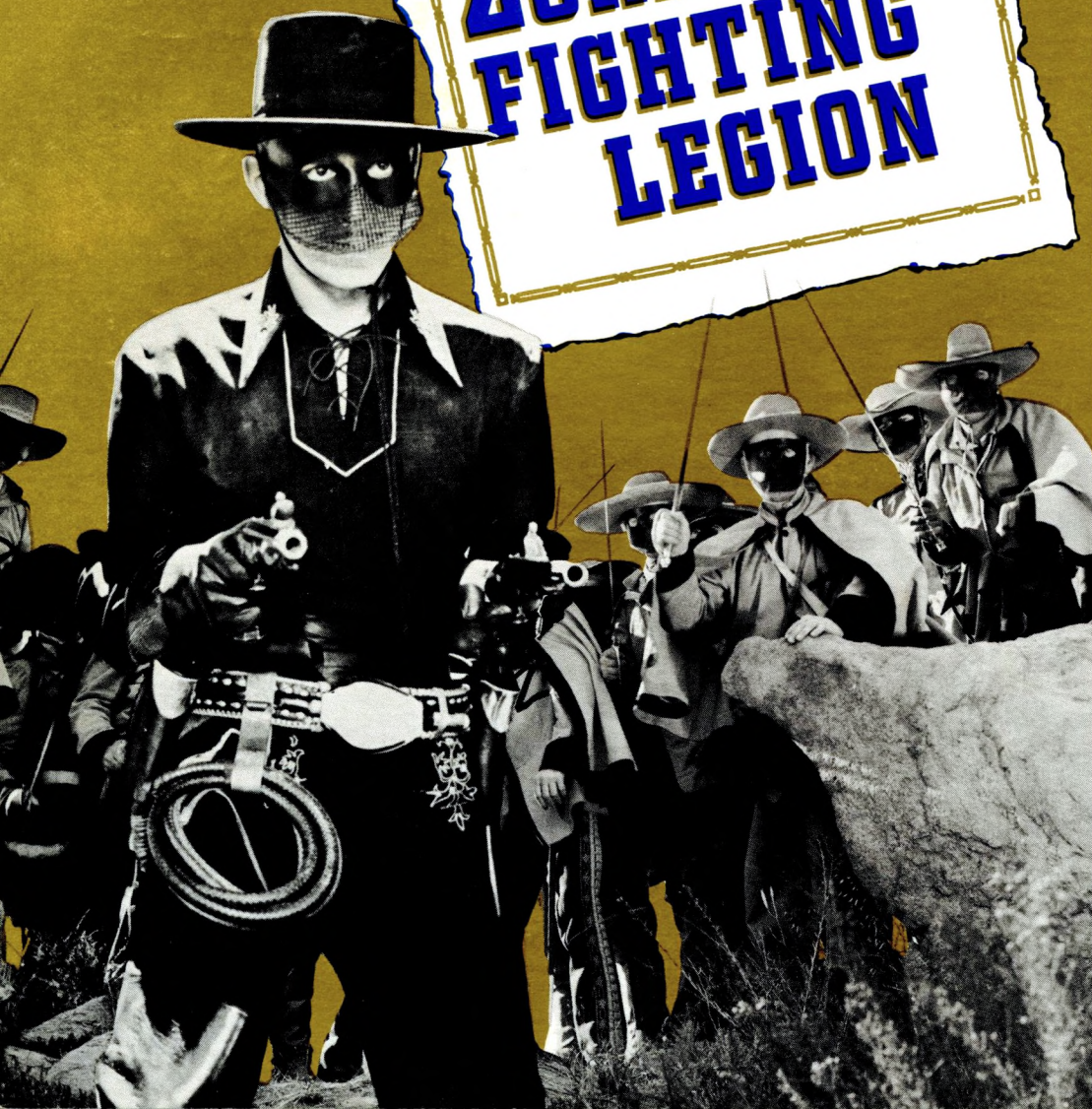
THE MOMENTOUS FINALE





We ride...with the wind as we go side by side...with
a song ringing far and wide...men of Zorro are we!

ZORRO'S FIGHTING LEGION



In 1810 the Mexican people
revolted against centuries
of tyranny.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1810

By 1824 the old Spanish
provinces had formed
themselves into the United
States of Mexico.

PROVINCE
OF
SAN MENDOLITO

ZORRO—In trying to warn the
ammunition train, is trapped
by the Yaquis.

DIRECTED BY
WILLIAM WITNEY • JOHN ENGLISH

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
HIRAM S. BROWN, JR.

Original Screen Play
RONALD FRANKLYN MORGAN
DAVIDSON • ADREON • COX
SON • BARNEY A.
SHOR • SARECKY
Production Manager... AL WILSON
Unit Manager... MACK D'AGOSTINO
Photography... REGGIE LANNING
Film Editors... EDWARD TODD
WILLIAM THOMPSON
Musical Score... BERNARD LOFTUS
WILLIAM LAVA